

Pesticide Waste Challenges

Group Exercise

Background Information:

Termite insecticides and landscaping pesticides have been discovered as partially buried drums and in soil and groundwater at an abandoned USAID-funded construction site. One hundred families claim illness from drinking pesticide-contaminated groundwater and breathing contaminated air. It will cost \$40,000,000 to investigate, cleanup and restore the site and take three years.

In class questions:

1. Is it cheaper to pay the \$40,000,000 to cleanup the site or to pay each of the 100 families \$250,000 to “go away?” Is a “go-away” payment feasible? Why?
2. What could have been done to prevent this bad news? Who would have done it?
3. Would non-pesticide applications have been practical for termites and landscaping pests?

Additional questions:

1. Prepare a skit or radio broadcast to announce a public meeting to discuss this issue and USAID’s role.
2. Write letter to the host-country’s Ambassador to the U.S. to describe the problem and how USAID will fix it.